



**PENTECOST 16**  
**September 8, 2024**  
**10:00 AM**

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4515 Dobie Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-349-0620

**FLC Staff**

Pastor ..... Bruce Thorsen  
Administrative Assistant .....Kalea Sanford  
Music Director ..... Deb Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist ..... Bruce Williams  
Custodian ..... Kelly Nickols  
Sound Technicians ..... Cody Boyan & Raymond Herek  
Church email ..... [faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website ..... [www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page ..... [facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

WIFI: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

## **Welcome Statement**

*We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as a child of God. As Paul said in his letter to the Galatians, “for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26) We strive to be a place where everyone is welcomed and affirmed.*

*No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, faith background, political leanings, or mental or physical ability – you are welcome as you are. As children of God, we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God’s love and grace to be our help and guide.*

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God’s law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us “the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

## **PRELUDE**

“O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing”

arr. Hal Hopson

## **Verse of the Day**

[Read in Unison]

**Submit yourselves, then to God. Resist the devil, and it will flee from you. Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you. James 4:7-8**

The Inclusive Bible

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,  
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us  
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first  
we make distinctions among ourselves.**

**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.**

**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.**

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,  
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

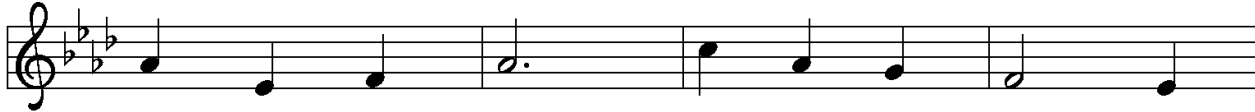
God promises to forgive our iniquity  
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ,  
the source of eternal healing,  
your sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG – EARTH AND ALL STARS! (ELW 731)



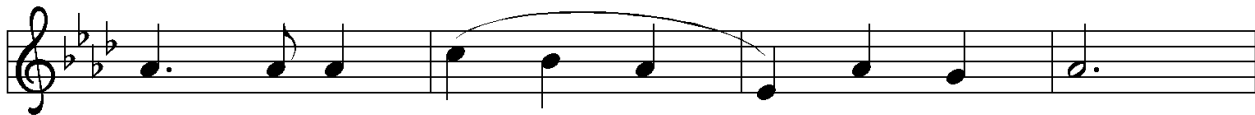
1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!  
 2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!  
 3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!  
 4 Class-rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes!  
 5 Knowl-edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!  
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!  
 Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!  
 Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!  
 Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987  
 Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**



# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING:** Isaiah 35:1-10

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,

but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM OF THE DAY:** Psalm 146 (Read Responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers,  
in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,  
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed  
down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**



## **SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17**

*Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.*

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [<sup>11</sup>For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON (Noisy Offering for the Food Pantry)

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

*In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

The holy gospel according to Mark. Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

# SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY – Lord, My Strength (W&P 93)



1 Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me through the dark;  
2 Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, you and you a - lone:



Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, heal this wan - d'ring heart.  
Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me safe - ly home.



Be my eyes, be my ears, be the on -  
Ev-'ry step that I make, be the road



- ly voice I hear; guide my soul, give me sight,  
I will take; be the thoughts that I keep



help me walk with - in your light.  
and in ev - 'ry word I speak.



3 Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me through the dark;



Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, heal this wan - d'ring heart.



Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, you and you a - lone:



Lord, my strength, Lord, my rock, lead me safe - ly home.

## INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

### CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

**Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

In your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

### OFFERING

"This Little Light of Mine"

(arr. Mark Patterson)

Chancel Choir

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God,  
source of every gift of your creation.

By these gifts and with our lives,  
help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.

There are gluten free wafers available, just let the pastor know when you are at the altar rail. As you receive communion, in the center of each tray, there are a few glasses filled with white grape juice for those who prefer juice rather than wine.

If you would prefer only a blessing, please have your hands folded and the pastor will give you a blessing.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION SONG – Bread of Life From Heaven (ELW 474)

*Refrain*

Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we  
eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD; Argentine traditional, refrain: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas

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## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

arr. Jeffrey Honoré

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

God all mighty,  
God most merciful  
✠ bless you, keep you,  
and give you peace.

**Amen.**



## SENDING SONG – Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (ELW 886)



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, adapt.; Spanish text: Vincent Mendoza, 1875–1955  
Music: TOMAS DE VICENTIS, William Decheimer Pharris, b. 1956  
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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Perpetuum Mobile”

Kristina Arakelyan

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## FLC SCHEDULE

### Sunday, September 8

- Sunday School @ 9am in Old Fellowship Hall
- Rally Day Service @ 10 am **16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**
- Installation of Sunday School teachers
- Rally Day Picnic and Potluck following service. All are Welcome!
- Parent Planning Meeting for FLC Youth @ 12:30pm in Library

### Monday, September 9

- Girl Scouts Meeting @ 6:15 pm in Old Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday, September 10

- Golf Outing
- CAMTA @ 9am in Sanctuary
- No Bible Study

### Wednesday, September 11

- Quilters Meet @ 9:30 am
- Confirmation @ 6:15pm in Fellowship Hall
- Faith Bells rehearsal @ 6:30pm
- Chancel Choir rehearsal @ 7:30pm

### Sunday, September 15:

- Sunday School @ 9am in Old Fellowship Hall
- Worship Service @ 10:00 am: **17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**
- Installation of Call Committee
- Worship Committee @ 11am in Library

### PRAYER PARTNERS

We are also participating in this activity and would love for you to add your signature. The letter is located on the table under the bulletin board entitled Prayer Partners.

**For safety reasons, please do not allow your children to wander unsupervised past the coat racks or downstairs during the church service.**

## **FAITH VOLUNTEERS**

### **September 8**

Greeter(s): Mike Eschelbach  
Reader: Heidi Nussdorfer  
Lay Assistant: Mike Eschelbach  
Ushers: John McCracken & Ken Milne  
Altar Care: Rich Weingartner  
Sunday School: Heidi Bowers  
Coffee Hour: Rally Day Picnic & Potluck  
Counters: Harold Sollenberger, Mike Eschelbach

### **September 15**

Greeter(s): Doug & Linda Hirt  
Reader: Brenda Kopf  
Lay Assistant: Bob Nelson  
Ushers: Brenda Kopf  
Altar Care: Jamie Royalty  
Sunday School: Heidi Bowers  
Coffee Hour: The Boyans  
Counters: Doug Hirt, Randy Royalty

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## **Golf Outing – Wheatfield Valley Golf Club**

**Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00am**

Questions? Contact: Laurie Hereza (517) 927-6753

Register <https://bit.ly/mrh2024>

## **Hawk Hollow Mini Golf (\*\*time change\*\*)**

The Membership Development Committee will be hosting miniature golf at Little Hawk Hollow on **Sunday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30**. Cost is \$10 per person. No golfing experience or equipment necessary. Just join us for some good fun.

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## **Lutheran World Relief**

**LWR** continues to aid refugees and persons displaced by natural and human disasters. We are collecting items for Personal Care Kits in September.

Each Personal Care Kit contains

- 1 bath-size towel (medium weight, dark color)
- 1 comb (heavy duty with large teeth)
- 1 pair of nail clippers
- 1 toothbrush (adult size)
- 2 or 3 bars of soap (Ivory preferred)
- 1 pair of shoelaces

## **CONFIRMATION DATES**

### **Sundays - 11:30 am - 1:30 pm**

September 22 - Class #1 – Introduction, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment

October 13 - Class #2 – Commandments 3 – 6

November 24 - Class #3 – Commandments 7-10

We will need a meal. Please let me know who is available on each date.

I will need an Adult Female for each class.

### **Wednesdays – 6:15 – 7:15 pm**

September 11 - Class #1 – Introduction and 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment

September 25 - Class #2 – Commandments 2 & 3

October 9 - Class #3 – Commandments 4 & 5

October 23 - Class #4 – Commandments 6 & 7

November 20 - Class #5 – Commandments 8-10

### **TBD – Date in December**



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## **Confirmation Mentors Needed for 2024 – 25**

Confirmation is gearing up for this and we need Mentors. The Ten commandments will be our area of study for the Fall. We are having 2 classes, due to scheduling, on 3 Sundays after church and 5 Wednesday evenings. Would you please consider being a mentor for one of our students? If you have any questions please contact Pastor Bruce – [pastorbruce@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:pastorbruce@faithlutheranokemos.org) or the church office.

Classes will be on:

- Sundays - September 22, October 13 & November 24  
1:30 am – 1:30 pm. – Attendance at 2 of them.

OR

- Wednesdays – September 11 & 25, October 9 & 23 and November 20 – 6:15 pm – 7:15 pm – Attendance at 3 of them.